

# OHIO: Leveling the Playing Field

*We believe, in order to keep jobs here in America, that trade ought to be free and fair. . . So the only fair thing to do is to say to other countries like China, you treat us the way we treat you, and that's precisely what this Administration is doing. We are holding them to account when it comes to trade laws. We're making sure that trade is fair.*

*-- President George W. Bush  
Brecksville-Broadview Heights, Ohio*

**Trade Plays a Significant Role in Ohio's Economy:** People from all over the world are buying Ohio products, which helps support Ohio's economy and create jobs. And free and fair trade has led foreign companies to invest in Ohio and hire Ohio workers.

- ✓ Ohio exported \$29.8 billion in goods to 205 foreign markets in 2003.
- ✓ 13,589 Ohio companies exported goods in 2001. Of those 87% were small and medium sized businesses.
- ✓ Nearly one-quarter of all manufacturing jobs in Ohio depend on exports.
- ✓ There are 900 foreign companies in Ohio employing 212,800 Ohio workers, and 52% of these are manufacturing jobs.

**Ohio Benefits as President Bush Levels the Playing Field:** The Bush Administration has worked aggressively to level the playing field for Ohio's manufacturers, farmers and workers by opening new markets, removing barriers that hurt Ohio's exporters, enforcing our trade laws, and combating unfair trade practices and promoting Ohio's exports.

- **Opening New Markets for Ohio:** Ohio's businesses and workers benefit as the Bush Administration opens new markets by:
  - **Expanding the Chinese market for Ohio's farmers.** After two years of working together, China issued final safety certificates for biotech soybeans, corn and canola, ensuring that China's quick-growing multi-billion dollar market for these U.S. agricultural products will remain open to Ohio and other U.S. farmers. Ohio is the 7<sup>th</sup> largest U.S. state exporter of soybeans, and soybeans are the state's top agricultural export.
  - **Opening the Chinese market for Ohio's automakers:** Following the Administrations' high-level discussions with the Chinese, they significantly increased the number of vehicles that Ohio and other U.S. companies can sell to China and committed to significantly lower tariffs on auto parts and autos by up to 75%, helping Ohio's top export industry and its workers. Ohio sold an estimated \$12.5 billion in transportation equipment to foreign markets in 2003. Vehicle manufacturing employed over 30,000 workers in Ohio and vehicle parts manufacturing employed over 96,000 Ohioans in 2003.
- **Removing Barriers that Hurt Ohio's Exporters:** The Bush Administration's aggressive actions to remove barriers for American exporters is helping Ohio's manufacturers and workers by securing:

- **Duty-free exports for Ohio's transportation equipment manufacturers** for autos, auto parts, civil aircraft and aircraft parts sold to Australia, Morocco, Chile, Singapore, Bahrain, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic.
  - **Duty-free exports for Ohio's industrial manufacturers** of industrial machinery, machine tools, and fabricated metal products sold to Australia, Morocco, Chile, Singapore, Bahrain, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic.
  - **Duty-free exports for Ohio's chemical manufacturers** for plastics, resins and basic chemicals sold to Australia, Morocco, Chile, Singapore, Bahrain, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic.
  - **Duty-free exports for Ohio's information technology producers** for products sold to Australia, Morocco, Chile, Singapore, Bahrain, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic.
- **Promoting Ohio Exports:** The Bush Administration actively works with American businesses to promote exports by leveraging the benefits of our international trade agreements. Some Ohio successes include:
- **Lubrizol Corporation in Wickliffe, OH,** is a manufacturer of water pollution control equipment and solutions that made a significant export sale to China as a result of the Administration's assistance.
  - **Voss Industries in Cleveland, OH,** is a manufacturer of automotive and aircraft parts who got the leverage they needed to finalize a contract with a French buyer.
  - **Norweco, Inc. in Norwalk, OH,** a manufacturer of potable water disinfection systems, which reduces waterborne illnesses in third world and developing countries, recently gained an export sale to Afghanistan.
- **Enforcing Trade Laws and Combating Unfair Trade Practices:** The President's enforcement of trade laws and vigorous pursuit of allegations of unfair trade have produced real results for Ohio, including:
- **Ensuring fair trade and enforcing trade laws for Ohio steel.** When the steel industry was suffering from surging foreign imports, the President took decisive action which the previous administration refused to do by imposing a safeguard on foreign imports in order to provide our steel industry and its workers the opportunity to adjust. The Bush Administration also worked to assist American steel workers and businesses by initiating negotiations with the world's major steel producers to address market distortions and overcapacity in the global steel sector. In addition, the Bush Administration is enforcing dozens of antidumping and countervailing duty orders on imported steel products that were found to injure domestic producers, including producers in Ohio.
  - **Ensuring fair access to China for Ohio's semiconductors** by bringing the first WTO case against China to ensure fair tax treatment for U.S. semiconductors in China, the fastest growing semiconductor market. Within months, China agreed to our demands, ensuring that Ohio and other U.S. exporters have fair access to a market worth over \$2 billion to American manufacturers.

- **Ensuring fair access to the European Union for Ohio's farming and biotech industries** after the Administration brought a WTO case to end the European Union (EU) ban on the importation of new agriculture biotech products; the EU approved a biotech corn product. The Administration is continuing to pursue this case to ensure that the EU ban is lifted on all biotech products.
- **Ensuring fair access to the Indonesian market for Ohio's soybean industry** by successfully convinced Indonesia to indefinitely delay imposing labeling requirements on "genetically engineered" and "irradiated" ingredients in food. U.S. industry estimates that if the labeling requirements imposed, they could affect sales of approximately \$411 million in U.S. exports of soybeans and soybean meal to Indonesia.
- **Ensuring fair access to India and the Philippines for Ohio's auto parts** by successfully challenging India and the Philippines at the WTO against unfair restrictions on imports of U.S. auto parts.
- **Ensuring fair access to Mexico for Ohio's tire manufacturers** by advocating for a revision of Mexican regulations that threatened the ability of Ohio's tire manufacturers to compete in Mexico. As a result of the Administration's intervention, Mexico reaffirmed its acceptance of U.S. tire certification in accordance with the U.S.-Mexico 1996 Tire Certification Agreement.